

(a) whether there are sharp differences between the Government and the State Government over the determination of the families living below the poverty line for the eligibility purpose for availing the benefits of the targeted revised PDS scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the differences to extend the benefits of the TRPDS scheme to the persons living below the poverty line ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

SPG Security

544. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the lady VVIPs enjoying SPG protection will continue to get such protection even after marriage;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps propose to be taken to stop avoidable expenditure involved in such unnecessary coverage/protection ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) As per provisions of the SPG Act, as amended, SPG is responsible for providing 'proximate security' to the Prime Minister and the members of his immediate family as also the former Prime Ministers and members of their immediate families for a period of 10 years from the date of demission of their offices. The immediate family members include wife, husband, children and parents. Therefore the lady VIPs enjoying SPG protection will continue to get such protection even after marriage. There is no proposal to make any amendment in the SPG Act at present.

Fertilizer Pricing Policy

545. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have constituted a high-powered Fertilizer Pricing Policy Review Committee to find an alternative mechanism to the existing Retention Pricing Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the terms of reference of the Committee;

(d) whether the recommendations relating to fertilizer pricing made by the Joint Parliamentary Committee are also to be reviewed by the said Committee.

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) Yes, Sir. A High Power Fertilizer Pricing Policy Review Committee has been constituted on 28.1.97 to review the existing system of subsidization of urea and suggest a rational, broad based, scientific and transparent methodology.

(b) and (c) The composition and terms of reference of the Committee are as follows :

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

- | | | |
|----|--|----------|
| 1. | Prof. C.H. Hanumantha Rao,
Former Member, Planning
Commission | Chairman |
| 2. | Prof. G.S. Bhalla, | |
| 3. | Sh. P.B. Krishnaswamy
Former Secretary, D/o Fertilizers | Member |
| 4. | Chairman, Bureau of Industrial
Costs and Prices (BICP) (ex-officio) | Member |
| 5. | Sh. O.N. Kapur
Chairman-cum-Managing Director
Project and Development India
Ltd. (PDIL) | Member |
| 6. | Smt. Kanta Ahuja
Economist, Jaipur | Member |
| 7. | Executive Director
Fertilizer industry Coordination
Committee (FICC) (Ex-officio
Secretary) | |

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE

- (i) To review the working of the Retention Price Scheme (RPS) for fertilizers and to make suggestions for correcting the deficiencies of the system, keeping in view the broad objectives of economic reform.
- (ii) To review the adequacy or otherwise of incentives to the industry. Issues relating to reasonableness of return on networth, norms of capacity utilization, depreciation etc.
- (iii) To suggest appropriate capital norms and debt equity ratio in respect of new fertilizer projects.
- (iv) To review the input pricing policy and its impact on the RPS.

- (v) To review the system of equated freight and recommend measures to rationalise it, including minimisation of cross country movement to reduce lead.
- (vi) To suggest measures to improve the cohesiveness of the policies in respect of the controlled and decontrolled segments of the fertilizer industry, especially the policies impinging on the availability of fertilizers and the relative pricing of controlled and decontrolled fertilizers with a view to achieving an agronomically desirable NPK consumption ratio, while keeping the fertilizer subsidy at a reasonable level.
- (vii) Any other item that may be considered appropriate.

(d) and (e) The High Power Committee has been constituted to undertake an indepth study of the issues delineated in its terms of reference.

(f) The Committee is required to submit its recommendations within a period of six months.

Pollution by Mining

546. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :
SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the places where the mining work including diamond mining is causing environmental pollution;

(b) the level of pollution at these places separately and

(c) the efforts being made and the funds being spent to abate the pollution ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) The mining work relates in general to coal, zinc, lead copper, iron, bauxite, granite and slate. There are 115 coal mines in the country predominantly located in the States of Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. The zinc and lead mines are located in the States of Rajasthan, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. The copper mines are located in the States of Rajasthan and Bihar. The iron ore mines are located in Karnataka, Goa, Bihar and Orissa. The bauxite mines are located in Maharashtra, Bihar and Orissa. Granite mines are located in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. The slate mines are located in Madhya Pradesh. The diamond mine is located at Panna in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) The mining activities result in water as well as air pollution the water pollution is caused mainly due to the following factors :

- Discharge of mining water containing suspended coal and rock dust; and
- acid mine drainage water

The mining activities cause air pollution due to emission of dust produced during various mining and allied activities. Opencast mining contributes more dust to the atmosphere than the underground mining.

(c) The steps taken to abate pollution include the following.

- installation of cyclone and wet scrubber at appropriate dust generating location;
- water spray on feeder and haul roads;
- treatment of acid drain discharge wherever necessary.
- The Indian Industry has also been taking proactive steps to manage environmental aspects arising out of mining activities. So far, 8 mines have already been certified to ISO-14001. Two of them are bauxite mines and the remaining 6 are iron ore mines.

As per the impact assessment notification of January, 1994 issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, the mining projects (major minerals with leases more than 5 hectares) are required an environmental clearance from the Ministry and while granting such clearance, environmental management plans so as to reflect the cost of pollution abatement and environment protection in the project cost

Zinc Paucity

547. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Zinc paucity may hit wheat crop" appearing in the 'Economic Times', dated February 4, 1997;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the details of action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;

(d) whether the Government have received any representation from the Micronutrient Manufacturers Association of India (MMAI); and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Zinc ash/skimming are the raw material for